months an army jawan ran amuck and killed four army men including a Col. before shooting himself at an Army Camp in Shoprain town;

(b) if so, whether Government have conducted an inquiry into the causes of such incidents in which army men have been killing their superiors or colleagues; and

(c) whether any common element or similarity has been detected behind these incident?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a) An army Havildar shot dead a Colonel, a Captain and two Subedars before killing himself at Hirpur in Jammu & Kashmir on 15th June, 1997.

(b) and (c) A study has been ordered at the level of Army Headquarters to go into these incidents.

Acquisition of SU-30 multi-role aircrafts

805. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Air Force is being equipped with ultramodern multi-role combat aircraft SU-30 even though a potentially dangerous gap exists in the training system which has resulted in a number of IAF mishaps;

(b) if so, how Government think that acquisition of these fighter aircraft would stregthen the IAF striking power when it lacks in advanced training system; and

(c) the manner in which Government propose to remove such a potential deficiency in IAF?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a) to (c) An agreement has been signed with Russia for acquisition of SU-30 aircraft in phases over a period of 5 years. A number of IAF personnel have undergone training in Russia on SU-30 aircraft. Training facilities are also being set up by the IAF for training of additional IAF personnel. The said facility will have necessary infrastructure required to meet the operational/maintenance requirements. The acquisition of SU-30 aircraft was considered necessary in order to sustain the combat potential of the IAF in view of the scheduled phasing out of some of the IAF combat aircraft. SU-30 is a state-of-the-art, multi-role, long endurance strike aircraft, one of the best available in its class, in the world.

Shortage of spares for IAF combat aircrafts

806. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the IAF is facing acute shortage of spares for maintenance of combat aircrafts and specialised support vehicles and equipments;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for leading to such a situation; and

(c) what measures have been taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a) The IAF has been experiencing some shortage of spares for maintenance of combat aircraft and specialist support vehicles and equipment.

(b) This is primarily due to the inability of the Russian Supplier agencies to meet the full requirements of the IAF, due to dis-integration of the erstwhile USSR.

(c) The matter has been pursued with the Russians from time to time at various levels. As a result, the position has considerably improved.